8. Public awareness programmes regarding problems, prevention, education and rehabilitation of handicapped are highlighted through the mass media (ike TV and Radio etc.

9. The Ministry does not n. have any scheme for providing Braille presses which can be set up in various States by the State Governments.

10. The National Sample Survey Orga nisation conducted a comprehensive sur vey regarding prevalence of disability dur ing 1981 in which the blind population in the country was also assessed. The Orga nisation has been asked to conduct an other survey in 1991.

11. Ministry of Welfare nave set up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres on pilot bash to provide comprehensive services for the disabled including the blind in rural areas. During the yea; 1990-91 a new scheme is proposed to be started un der which assistance shall be given to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of the handicapped including the blind in rural areas to expand their activi ties in the area of early detection, inter vention, educational and therapeutical ser vices. A number of organisations like the National Association for the Blinds the Blind Men's Association, Ahmedabad, etc. are carrying on rehabilitation programme"! for the rural blind in different States. Some of these programmes are also being assisted by the Ministry of Welfare through its grant-in-aid scheme to volun tary organisations. These organisations are also receiving assistance from other sour ces.

Grant for the Development of Madras City

*273. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT bepleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu have requested the Central Government for a grant for the development of Madras city in commemoration of its 300 years; and

(b) if so, the amount granted for the said purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHR l MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sn. A request of this nature was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1987. This request was examined and tne State Government were advised to include the development schemes for the Corporation of Madras in their Eighth Five Year Plan proposals. The State Government have, however, again renewed their request on 15-3-1990.

Amendment $_0$f the workingJournalists' Act

*274. SHRIMATI! VBEfNA VERMAKUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to, ?tate;

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Working Journalists' Act to ensure the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations and if so, what are the main proposals for amendment; and

(b) whether Government are considering any penal provisions also ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b). There are no proposals presently under consideration to amend the Act.

Involvement of Public and the private sec.tors for New Employmentopportunitiesfor Youth

*275. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government rre contemplating to involve both the public sector ' and the private sector in programmes for